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# 20CY-CV09848 - MISSOURI EMPLOYERS MUTUA V WESTROCK

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Case.net Version 5.14.12

☐ Judge Assigned

Return to Top of Page

Released 11/10/2020



# IN THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT, CLAY COUNTY, MISSOURI

IN THE 7TH	H JUDICIAL CIRCU	TT COURT, CLAY COUNTY, MISSOU	RI
udge or Division:		Case Number: 20CY-CV09848	
LIZABETH DAVIS  laintiff/Petitioner:  MISSOURI EMPLOYERS  NSURANCE COMPANY		Plaintiff's/Petitioner's Attorney/Address JORDAN HUDSPITH 3901 S PROVIDENCE SUITE D	
Defendant/Respondent:	VS.	COLUMBIA, MO. 65203 Court Address; 11 S WATER	
WESTROCK COMMERC Nature of Suit: CC Pers Injury-Other	IAL, LLC	LIBERTY, MO 64068	(Date File Stamp)
C 1 (ta tinjus) - C inci	Si	ummons in Civil Case	(part the equity)
The State of Missensi	to: WESTROCK COMMI		
221 BOLIVAR STREET JEFFERSON CITY, MO 6510  COURT SEAL OF		ed to appear before this court and to file your pleading	to the petition, a copy of
Contract of the second	which is attached, and above address all within	to serve a copy of your pleading upon the attorney for in 30 days after receiving this summons, exclusive of th gment by default may be taken against you for the relic BARB WILMO	Plaintiff/Petitioner at the ne day of service. If you fail to the demanded in the petition.
	Date	Clerk	
CLAY COUNTY	Further Information:		
I certify that I have served delivering a copy of the serving a co	the above summons by: (che the summons and a copy of the summons and a copy of the per pration) delivering a copy of the	to the court within thirty days after the date of issue.  sek one)  petition to the Defendant/Respondent.  tition at the dwelling place or usual abode of the Defenda  a person of the Defendant's/Respondent's family ov the summons and a copy of the petition to  (name) Corp. Rep For CSC	er the age of 15 years.
Other Served at 221 Bo	livar 8t. #101	6 Jefferson City	(address)
in Crole Code Code County	e of Sheriff or Server	Signature of Signa	eriff or Segret (time).
Sheriff's Person Constitution of Non Particular Sheriff's Deplay Safary Supplemental Surcharge Mileage Total	\$ 10.00 \$ (	miles @ \$ per mile)	
A copy of the summons a suits, see Supreme Court		st be served on each Defendant/Respondent. For method	ds of service on all classes of



**Notice of Service of Process** 

null / ALL Transmittal Number: 22449780 Date Processed: 12/17/2020

**Primary Contact:** 

Patricia Benjamin WestRock

1000 Abernathy Rd

Ste 125

Atlanta, GA 30328-5639

Electronic copy provided to:

Angela Dotson Robert McIntosh

Taiesha Ballentine

Entity:

WestRock Commercial, LLC

Entity ID Number 2326014

**Entity Served:** 

Westrock Commercial, LLC

Title of Action:

Missouri Empoyers Mutual Insurance Company vs. Westrock Commercial, LLC

Document(s) Type:

Summons/Complaint

Nature of Action:

Personal Injury

Court/Agency:

Clay County Circuit Court, MO

Case/Reference No:

20CY-CV09848

**Jurisdiction Served:** 

Missouri

Date Served on CSC:

12/16/2020

**Answer or Appearance Due:** 

30 Days

**Originally Served On:** 

CSC

How Served:

Personal Service

Sender Information:

Jordan Hudspith 573-777-4488

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251 Little Falls Drive, Wilmington, Delaware 19808-1674 (888) 690-2882 | sop@cscglobal.com



# IN THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT, CLAY COUNTY, MISSOURI

- ADGEONAL				
Judge or Division:		Case Number: 20CY-CV09848		
ELIZABETH DAVIS				
Plaintiff/Petitioner:		Plaintiff's/Petitioner's Attorney/Ac	ddress	
MISSOURI EMPLOYERS N	<b>MUTUAL</b>	JORDAN HUDSPITH		
INSURANCE COMPANY		3901 S PROVIDENCE		
		SUITE D		
	vs.	COLUMBIA, MO 65203		
Defendant/Respondent:		Court Address:		
WESTROCK COMMERCIA	L, LLC	11 S WATER		
Nature of Suit:		LIBERTY, MO 64068		
CC Pers Injury-Other				(Date File Stamp)
	Su	mmons in Civil Case		
The State of Missouri to	: WESTROCK COMME	CRCIAL, LLC	***************************************	
	Alias:			
221 BOLIVAR STREET JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101				
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 05101				
COURT SEAL OF	You are summone	d to appear before this court and to fi	le your pleading to	the petition, a copy of
COURTOR	which is attached, and	to serve a copy of your pleading upon	the attorney for Pla	aintiff/Petitioner at the
		n 30 days after receiving this summon		
	file your pleading, judg	ment by default may be taken against	•	emanded in the petition.
12/1/2	12/7/2020		BARB WILMOT	
Text St	Date		Clerk	
CLAY COUNTY	Further Information:			
		Sheriff's or Server's Return		
Note to serving officer: Su	mmons should be returned t	o the court within thirty days after the de	ate of issue.	
I certify that I have served the	ne above summons by: (che	ck one)		
	• •	petition to the Defendant/Respondent.		
		tition at the dwelling place or usual about	le of the Defendant/F	Respondent with
		a person of the Defendant's/Respon	ndent's family over t	
(for service on a corpora	tion) delivering a copy of th	e summons and a copy of the petition to	)	
		(name)		(title).
other				
in		f St. Louis), MO, on		
	(County/City of	ist. Louis), Mo, on	(date) at _	(time).
Printed Name	of Sheriff or Server		Signature of Sheril	ff or Server
		otary public if not served by an autho		
		fore me on		date).
(Seal)			(c	iato).
	My commission expires: _	Date	NT.	otary Public
Sheriff's Fees		Date	N	otary Public
Summons	\$			
Non Est	\$			
Sheriff's Deputy Salary	· control and a state of the st			•
Supplemental Surcharge	\$10.00			
Mileage		miles @ \$ per mile)		
Total	\$			
		t be served on <b>each</b> Defendant/Respond	dent. For methods o	f service on all classes of
suits, see Supreme Court Ru	le 54.			

MISSOURI EMPOYERS MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY,	
Plaintiff,	Case No.
<b>V.</b>	
WESTROCK COMMERCIAL, LLC, Service Address: 221 Bolivar Street Jefferson City, MO 65101 and	
JOHN DOES 1-5,	
Defendants.  ORDER APPOINTING	SPECIAL PROCESS SERVER
Plaintiff's Motion for Appointment of	Special Process Server, having been read and
considered, and it appearing to the Court that s	sufficient grounds exist for the granting thereof,
pursuant to Rule 90.03(a), it is HEREBY ORD	ERED that the Plaintiff is authorized to perfect
service by a private process server who is her	reby directed to personally serve a copy of the
Plaintiff's Summons and Petition on the aforeme	entioned Defendants and to make and file a proof
of service as required by law.	
The Special Process Server appointed is	: Pro Serve and is hereby directed to file a Proof
of Services as required by law.	
Thisday of 202	20.
	Judge

# MISSOURI EMPOYERS MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY,

Plaintiff,

Case No.

v.

### WESTROCK COMMERCIAL, LLC,

Service Address: 221 Bolivar Street Jefferson City, MO 65101

and

**JOHN DOES 1-5,** 

Defendants.

### MOTION FOR APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL PROCESS SERVER

**COMES NOW** Plaintiff, by and through the undersigned counsel and for its Motion for Appointment of Special Process Server, states as follows:

- 1. Pro Serve is qualified to serve process in accordance with Missouri Supreme Court Rule 54.13.
  - 2. Pro Serve is not a party and is more than 18 years of age.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for an Order of the court appointing Pro Serve as special process servers in this case to serve the Summons, and Petition in this case on Defendant WestRock Commercial, LLC.

# Respectfully Submitted, VESSELL BRIDGES MURPHY LAW OFFICES

/s/ Ross A. Bridges

Ross A. Bridges #62762 3901 S. Providence, Suite D Columbia, Missouri 65203

Tel: (573)777-4488
Fax: (573)777-4489
Email: Ross@vbmlaw.com
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

MISSOURI EMPOYERS MUT	<b>'UAL</b>
INSURANCE COMPANY,	

Plaintiff.

Case No.

v.

#### WESTROCK COMMERCIAL, LLC,

Service Address: 221 Bolivar Street Jefferson City, MO 65101

and

**JOHN DOES 1-5,** 

Defendants.

#### ORDER APPOINTING SPECIAL PROCESS SERVER

Plaintiff's Motion for Appointment of Special Process Server, having been read and considered, and it appearing to the Court that sufficient grounds exist for the granting thereof, pursuant to Rule 90.03(a), it is HEREBY ORDERED that the Plaintiff is authorized to perfect service by a private process server who is hereby directed to personally serve a copy of the Plaintiff's Summons and Petition on the aforementioned Defendants and to make and file a proof of service as required by law.

The Special Process Server appointed is: Pro Serve and is hereby directed to file a Proof of Services as required by law.

This	day of	2020.	
		Indge	

# MISSOURI EMPOYERS MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY,

Plaintiff,

Case No.

v.

#### WESTROCK COMMERCIAL, LLC,

Service Address: 221 Bolivar Street Jefferson City, MO 65101

and

**JOHN DOES 1-5,** 

Defendants.

### PETITION FOR DAMAGES

COMES NOW Plaintiff, Missouri Employers Mutual Insurance Company, by and through its undersigned counsel, and for its cause of action against Defendant WestRock Commercial, LLC, and John Does 1-5, files this Petition for Damages, stating as follows:

#### **VENUE AND JURISDICTION**

- 1. Plaintiff, Missouri Employers Mutual Insurance Company (hereinafter referred to as "MEM") is and at all times relevant herein a Missouri corporation doing business in Missouri as an insurance company.
- 2. MEM's principal place of business is located at 101 N. Keene Street, Columbia, Missouri 65201.
- 3. Defendant WestRock Commercial, LLC (hereinafter referred to as "West Rock") is a Missouri corporation doing business in Missouri as a manufacturer of packaging products.

- 4. Defendant WestRock's principal place of business is located at 221 Bolivar Street, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101.
- 5. Defendants John Does 1-5 ("hereinafter referred to as "John Does"), identities unknown, are individuals who improperly loaded pallets onto a semi-truck, which later fell on Mr. James Moore, as more fully described below.
- 6. Venue and jurisdiction are proper in this court and all transactions, events, occurrences, acts, errs and omissions giving rise to this action occurred in Clay County, Missouri.
- 7. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because Defendants transact business within this state, have made contracts within this state, or have committed tortious acts within this state, and otherwise have sufficient minimum contacts with the State of Missouri.

# ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL COUNTS

- 8. On or about June 19, 2019, James Moore (hereinafter referred to as "Mr. Moore") suffered an injury in the course and scope of his employment while Mr. Moore was employed as a semi-truck driver.
- 9. On or about June 19, 2019, Mr. Moore arrived at WestRock to pick up a load, specifically pallets, that were to be delivered to Billings, Montana.
- 10. Upon information and belief, WestRock and/or John Does 1-5 loaded the pallets onto Mr. Moore's semi-truck at the location in Liberty, Missouri.
- 11. Upon information and belief, Mr. Moore was advised to not assist with the loading process.
- 12. Upon information and belief, the pallets were double stacked on the trailer of the semi-truck.
  - 13. Upon information and belief, the pallets were not strapped into place.

- 14. Upon information and belief, Mr. Moore was further advised that the receiver of the pallets, Blue Line Billings, was responsible for unloading the semi-truck upon arrival to Billings, Montana.
- 15. Upon information and belief, Mr. Moore's sole responsibility upon arrival to the destination in Billings, Montana, was to open the semi-truck doors, and back the trailer into the dock.
- 16. On or about June 19, 2019, when Mr. Moore arrived to the final destination in Billings, Montana, he opened the doors of the semi-truck, at which time, the pallets that were double stacked in the trailer, fell onto Mr. Moore.
- 17. On the date of the aforementioned accident, MEM provided a workers' compensation insurance policy to Mr. Moore's employer, Express, LLC.
- 18. MEM provided workers' compensation benefits, including, but not limited to medical treatment and other benefits required by the Missouri Workers' Compensation Act Chapter 287 RSMo., to Mr. Moore as a result of the damages and injuries he sustained in the aforementioned accident.
- 19. MEM has provided benefits to Mr. Moore in excess of \$190,000.00, exclusive of other costs and expenses which are not relevant to this action.

# <u>COUNT I – NEGLIGENCE</u> (Against Defendants John Does 1-5)

- 20. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs 1-19 as if fully set forth herein.
  - 21. On or about June 19, 2019, John Does owed a duty of care to Mr. Moore.
- 22. On or about June 19, 2019, John Does violated the highest degree of care owed to Mr. Moore.

- 23. Defendants John Does were negligent in the following manners, including but not limited:
  - a. Failure to exercise the highest degree of care while loading the pallets onto the semi-truck.
  - b. Failure to safely position the pallets on the semi-truck.
  - c. Failure to utilize load locks to securely lock the pallets in place on the semi-truck.
  - d. Failure to safely strap the pallets into place on the semi-truck.
- 24. As a direct and proximate result of such negligence, Mr. Moore was injured and sustained damages requiring him to undergo medical treatment.
  - 25. Mr. Moore was in the scope of his employment at the time of the accident.
- As a direct and proximate result of Defendants John Does' negligence, Mr. Moore incurred medical expenses, pain, suffering, mental anguish, physical impairment, loss of capacity to enjoy life, lost wages, temporary disability and permanent disability.
- 27. MEM was required to pay certain workers' compensation benefits to Mr. Moore as a result of the injuries he sustained as a result of the negligence of Defendants John Does.
- 28. Pursuant to Missouri Section 287.150 RSMo. MEM is a real party in interest and is, therefore, entitled to bring this action pursuant to Section 507.010 RSMo. for recovery against Defendants John Does which shall not be limited to the amount payable as compensation to Mr. Moore under §287.150 RSMo.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff MEM prays for judgment on Plaintiff's petition against Defendants John Does for such sums as shall be determined to be fair and reasonable under the circumstances in excess of \$25,000, for attorney's fees and costs herein expended, the statutory

court costs, including all depositions pursuant to Missouri Revised Statute §492.590, and for such other and further relief as the court deems just and proper under the circumstances.

# COUNT II – RESPONDEAT SUPERIOR (Against Defendant WestRock)

- 29. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs 1-28 as if fully set forth herein.
- 30. On or about June 19, 2019, Defendants John Does were employed by WestRock.
- 31. John Does were acting within the course and scope of their employment with WestRock when they loaded pallets on the semi-truck driven by Mr. Moore on or about June 19, 2019.
- 32. WestRock is a corporation that can only act through its employees. As such, any act or omission of an employee while acting within his/her employment is the act or omission of WestRock.
- 33. The negligent acts of John Does was also of WestRock's on June 19, 2019, which has caused damages to MEM in the amount set forth above.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff MEM prays for judgment on Plaintiff's petition against Defendant WestRock for such sums as shall be determined to be fair and reasonable under the circumstances in excess of \$25,000, for attorney's fees and costs herein expended, the statutory court costs, including all depositions pursuant to Missouri Revised Statute §492.590, and for such other and further relief as the court deems just and proper under the circumstances.

# Respectfully Submitted, VESSELL BRIDGES MURPHY LAW OFFICES

/s/ Ross A. Bridges

Ross A. Bridges #62762 3901 S. Providence, Suite D Columbia, Missouri 65203

Tel: (573)777-4488
Fax: (573)777-4489
Email: Ross@vbmlaw.com
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

MISSOURI EMPOYERS MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY,

Plaintiff,

Case No.

v.

WESTROCK COMMERCIAL, LLC,

Service Address: 221 Bolivar Street Jefferson City, MO 65101

and

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# Respectfully Submitted, VESSELL BRIDGES MURPHY LAW OFFICES

/s/ Ross A. Bridges

Ross A. Bridges #62762 3901 S. Providence, Suite D Columbia, Missouri 65203

Tel: (573)777-4488 Fax: (573)777-4489

Email: Ross@vbmlaw.com ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

# MISSOURI EMPOYERS MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY,

Plaintiff,

Case No.

V.

# WESTROCK COMMERCIAL, LLC,

Service Address: 221 Bolivar Street Jefferson City, MO 65101

and

### **JOHN DOES 1-5,**

Defendants.

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ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF